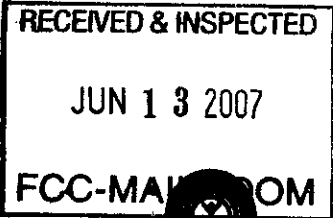




PO Box 612, Craig, Colorado 81626  
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E-mail [evelyn@indlife.org](mailto:evelyn@indlife.org)

Member Agency of the Moffat County and Routt County United Ways  
Celebrating 10 Years of Serving People with Disabilities in Northwest Colorado



June 3, 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: CG Docket No. 03-123**

Dear Chairman Martin; Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell and Tate;

I am the Executive Director for a rural independent Living Center in northwestern Colorado. Our agency serves people with all types of disabilities, including those who are deaf. Trying to communicate with our consumers who are deaf is often heart-rending and frustrating (for them and for us) since in Grand, Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties (most of our service area) there is only one certified sign language interpreter. In effect, our consumers who are deaf are at an extreme disadvantage in trying to communicate with others or participate in public meetings. The lack of trained interpreters limits their ability to receive competent medical care, legal advice, vocational rehabilitation services, public information, or education. Thus, the Video Relay Service (VRS) is a vital service for our consumers as well as for our communities.

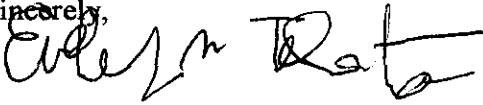
Our organization covers 5 western counties of 12,732 square miles with a population density as little as 1.88 per square mile. This area has been designated by the U.S. Department of Health as a Health-care Professional Shortage Area. Many of our consumers live more than a three hours drive from our office electronic communication, such as V.R.S. is a communications link that needs to be strengthened and improved in our rural area.

Deaf people in rural areas are at an increased disadvantage. This service and services like this that encourage outreach to our deaf population and provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters in deaf communities no matter how small and rural they may be, are essential. Please consider increasing technology improvements such as the development of new video phone equipment.

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It is shocking to think that this service is being considered for drastic cutting when, in fact, it should be enhanced for the rural areas. We need to vigorously pursue fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services for our deaf consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evelyn Tileston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Evelyn Tileston  
Executive Director